

## **Meeting between the Deputy Mayor for Transport and the United Cabbies Group (UCG)**

1 June 2016

### **Attendees**

Val Shawcross, Deputy Mayor for Transport

Bryn Phillips, Labour Party

Trevor Merralls, UCG

Helen Chapman, General Manager of London Taxi & Private Hire

Tim Steer, GLA Transport Team

### **Meeting note**

Val explained to the UCG and Bryn that she and the Mayor are committed to stabilising and promoting the black cab trade and work is underway with the TfL commissioner to develop a package of measures for the Mayor to consider.

### **UCG demonstration planned for 8 June**

- Bryn and Trevor said that the UCG was planning a demonstration on 8 June because of UCG member concerns about engagement with TfL and TfL's management of the Taxi and Private Hire unit
- Val said that she recognised the demonstration might still go ahead but that the purpose of the meeting was to have a general discussion and identify the key measures that could be put in place to support the taxi trade

### **Engagement**

- Bryn and Trevor expressed concern about how some drivers are excluded from engagement with TfL and cabbies cabinet and that they wanted to be part of the negotiation with TfL
- Val said that engagement with the trade is being reviewed as we need to work towards modernising engagement making it less formal and more inclusive.
- Helen explained the engagement policy was developed before the UCG was formed and that as it has been in place for over six years it is right to review the arrangements
- **ACTION:** Val and Helen to consider trade engagement

### **UCG membership**

- Trevor told the group their membership figures, excluding associate members and offered access to their membership numbers via an independent review

### **Support for the taxi trade**

- Val asked Bryn and Trevor for their ideas on supporting the taxi industry as we are developing an action plan to help stabilise the future
- Bryn and Trevor suggested a review of the Wes Streeting, MP for Ilford North, 10 minute Bill
- They also expressed particular concern about the costs of investing in new vehicles, particularly for drivers reaching the end of their careers

- Val said the new Mayor's Transport Strategy which is currently being developed will include an explicit commitment to protecting and maintaining the taxi trade and measures to do so
- Val also confirmed that TfL's Commissioner is looking at the organisation of the taxi function in TfL to ensure more dedicated senior management involvement and support

The meeting closed with an agreement to have a follow-up meeting which is planned for 24 June.